



# The James Project Journal

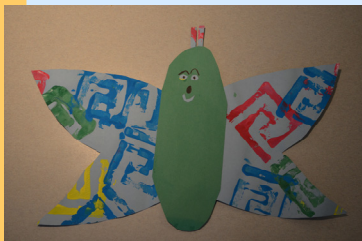
*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: To look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27*

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

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## OUR VISION

*“Scripture clearly tells us that we are to help care for the displaced children in our midst. The James Project is dedicated to answering Christ’s call and taking a larger role in caring for the foster children in our community.”*



*“We are not the rescuers. We are the rescued!”*

~Orphan Conference 2013, Nashville, TN

## Superheroes in Our Midst Words from Jessica, adoptive mom

My introduction into foster parenting began with a 3-month-old little boy coming to my home with nothing, but the clothes on his body. He had not been given a bottle in about 6 hours and fortunately, my family and friends helped me gather his basic needs for several days. However, since it typically takes time for foster resources to be available, I paid for everything out-of-pocket including formula. I was happy to provide for him, but honestly the cost and volume of the formula was a shock to my budget.

The process of receiving state funded resources and help for foster children is limited and takes time—often weeks.

It is an incredible blessing that The James Project can help fill these gaps and allow foster families to flourish!

In March, after a more than

two year fostering journey, I was able to adopt my two foster sons. We celebrated God’s provision with a superhero themed adoption party.



**Board Member Paula Board accepts gift cards from the Little Superheroes**

We asked our guests to be superheroes too, by bringing gift cards that we could pass on to The James Project. Our party guests overwhelmed us by giving more than \$1600 in

gift cards! These gift cards will help foster parents get the items needed to make their first days and weeks with new foster children a little easier.

The road of fostering and adopting was a challenging one, but God has been faithful each step of the way. During the everyday challenges and most difficult moments, I held onto God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:11,

*“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘Plans to prosper you...plans to give you hope and a future.’”*

Maybe it’s time to ask yourself—what does God have planned for me?

*In Him, ~Jessica*

## Tickled by the Ivories

Through the generosity of TJP supporters Larry and Betsy Lewis, The High Pointe House now has a piano! When donating the piano, Betsy remarked at how every child should have the opportunity to learn about music, and that most definitely included the children at TJP. The piano

arrived this winter and 5-year-old Lexi is anxious to begin taking lessons. One catch—she is still in need of a piano teacher!

If you or someone you know could share this gift of piano instruction please contact Jan Williams at 498-6817.



**Trying out the new piano**

# Kindergarten at Closet 1:27



Enthusiastic students ready to unload donations at the Closet

Springfield Christian School has a community service day known as “Be the C Day” during both the Fall and Spring semesters. This April, the kindergarten classes at SCS learned about foster families and the work done by The James Project over the course of several weeks.

To make the project more

hands-on, the students collected items for Closet 1:27, such as diapers, baby wipes, clothing and gift cards.

On April 17, the students took a field trip to the Closet 1:27 warehouse to deliver their donations. Closet 1:27 volunteers gave the students a tour and described how newly placed foster

children receive a laundry basket filled with items they need when they arrive at a new foster home.

SCS room mother Melanie Rahmel said that “Visiting Closet 1:27 gave the children a real sense of what it means to care and serve others. And in caring for others, it is important to give items that are in good condition—things that we would want to receive if we were in a similar situation. But even more importantly, the children, learned what it means not to have a mom and a dad. It was very moving to see!”

The visit lasted only about an hour, but the lessons learned about giving to others will certainly last for a lifetime.

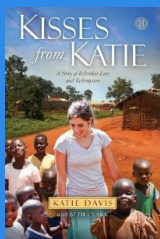


## What Really Matters

An excerpt from *Kisses from Katie* by Katie Davis

In regards to her foster family consisting of herself and 13 girls living in Uganda, Katie writes:

“The number of days or weeks we are together isn’t important; what really matters is the way God *knits our hearts together* during the time He chooses for us to be in one another’s lives.”



## Won't You Be Our Neighbor?

The goal of The James Project is to provide houses for foster families. We want to be able to assist dedicated, Christian foster parents in our community who do a tough and expensive job loving children who need a home and a family in the here and now.

You may not live near one of our homes, but you can become a “neighbor” just the same; someone who shares the ambitions for the neighborhood, has an interest in the lives of those living there and help in times of need.

We are looking for 100 people to join The James Project Neighborhood with a \$1000 donation in 2013. We are so grateful for what God has done with our first home that we are now looking for our second home and family.

Thank you to the newest Neighbors in The James Project Neighborhood!

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Anderson Family</b> | <b>Harmon Family</b>     |
| <b>Drake Family</b>    | <b>Musgrove Family</b>   |
| <b>Goswami Family</b>  | <b>Woolbright Family</b> |
| <b>Haas Family</b>     | <b>Williams Family</b>   |

Please consider joining our neighborhood and become that Neighbor who makes a life changing difference in a fostering family.

Donations via **Paypal**, at: [www.TheJamesProject127.com](http://www.TheJamesProject127.com)

**Mail checks to:** The James Project  
11 Sunset Lane, Springfield, IL 62704

# We The James Project

*As a foster parent, sometimes you forget all of the items the children need. I am very humbled by The James Project. Words will never be enough to say thank you for the bed, diapers, clothes, and other items given to us. Thank you! God sent you to us!" ~Christina, foster mom*

## Undie Sunday

Central Baptist Church held an Undie Sunday on May 12th for Closet 1:27. They collected 532 pairs of underwear, 278 pairs of socks and 76 undershirts and camisoles. Event organizers Nancy Nelson and Jennifer Logan smile as they present the donations. Thank you Central Baptist for loving TJP!



## High Pointe House Highlights

Life is as exciting as ever at the High Pointe House. This spring, the Board of Directors and Foster Parents Dee and Andy Peterson hosted an Open House on April 18th. Thankfully the torrential rains turned off for a couple of hours and guests could comfortably see the new deck and patio outdoors. The children's rooms are warm and



inviting, and Dee has decorated with friendly reminders of family

throughout the home. To cap off the successful Open House a morning of prayer was held on April 20th where 23 supporters of The James Project came together to pray for The Peterson Family.



We now have more than a full house at the Petersons. 5-year-old Desmond, has fantastic artistic ability and Lexi, also 5 is a musical princess. Lexi's 4-year-old brother Alex, is full of boundless energy. Maycen is the "big brother" at age 14 and is highly intelligent and his grades show it. 14-month-old Garrett joined the family in March and his smiles

light up the house. If Lexi feels outnumbered by all of the boys, it is about to get even more lopsided as Alex and Lexi's brother Anthony, 7, will be leaving his previous foster home to come live at High Pointe. The Petersons have received a waiver to allow for more than 6 children in their home because a sibling group is involved. Please pray for a smooth transition as Anthony joins the family.

## Ministry Partners *With full hearts, we thank our generous donors!*

- Blake Anderson**
- Barbara Burris**
- Robert and Lisa Burris**
- Sue Ellen Busby**
- William and Jan Butela**
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...providing homes and  
support for fostering families...

## Earn Dollars for TJP While You Shop!

The James Project is now signed up for the eScrip program at Schnucks. What does this mean? Every time you shop at Schnucks, TJP can earn up to 3% back on your total transaction!

Getting signed up is easy. Simply visit the Service Desk at the local Schnucks and ask for an eScrip membership card. You can register the card through 1-800-931-6258 or through [Escrip.com](http://Escrip.com). Information needed to register your card includes name, email, address, phone number and TJP group # which is: **500044106**. You will receive 5 cards you can share with family members.

Or, if you prefer, call TJP at 498-6817 and leave your name and address and we'll mail you an already registered card.

Each time you shop at Schnucks, present your card at the beginning of your shopping transaction to start earning funds for TJP. Happy Shopping!



## The Ultimate Drive for Hope: Fundraiser for The James Project & The Central Illinois Blood Center

When: August 7, 2013, 10am-2pm

Where: Nicoud Insurance, 4481 Ash Grove Dr.,  
Springfield, IL (Off of Wabash Behind Culver's)

The event will be broadcast live on WFMB-AM 1450. Come support Nicoud Insurance's super campaign to promote The James Project and help replenish the blood supplies in our area!

